(b) ONGC is following the recommended practices/norms for laying of oil and gas pipelines. Sometimes, to obtain early production of crude oil, pipeline norms are modified subject to technoeconomic viability and prescribed safety norms.

Production of Crude Oil by ONGC

1241. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of Crude Oil by ONGC during 1992-93 was lower than that of 1991-92; and

(b) if so, by what quantity and what are the reasons for such low production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The production of crude oil by ONGC during 1992-93 was 24.43 MMT as compared to a production of 27.82 MMT during 1991-92. The reasons for this shortfall in production include :—

(i) Implementation of the rectificatory measures in the Bombay High field;

(ii) Delay in start of production from Ravva Phase-I;

(iii) Reservoir constraints in Western Region; and

(iv) Environmental constraints in Eastern Region.

Review of Prices of the Petroleum Products

1242. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the consumption of Petroleum Products in the recent month have shown declining trend:

(b) if so, the percentage by which the consumption of petroleum products have fallen during the last six months; and

(c) whether in view of the declining trend in the consumption of petroleum products Government propose to review the prices of the Petroleum products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (d) The consumption of Petroleum Products during the last six months and the growth over the corresponding period of the previous year is shown below :—

Month (1993)	Qty. (TMT) (Provisional)	%Growth
January	4939	—4.5
February	4897	—1.0
March	5020	2.0
April	4811	—1.3
May	4907	—2.1
June	4941	—0.9

(c) There is no such proposal.

Allocation of Offshore Gas to Gujarat

1243. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gujarat Government has requested for allocation of offshore gas in the State sector, if so whether any such allocation has been or is likely to be made;

(b) whether any offshore gas has been allotted to non-central sector projects in Gujarat, if so, what quantity has been allotted project-wise, whether there is any policy for not allotting offshore gas for State sector projects in Gujarat;

(c) whether Government has fixed priorities in regard to gas allocation based on its usage, if so, what are the principles on which this prioritisation has been done and what are the details of the prescribed priorities whether allocation of offshore gas has strictly followed these priorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Allocations of gas are not made on considerations, of it being offshore or onshore, or on considerations of the gas based projects

being in the Central or States Sectors. Allocations of gas are made considering availability, best economic use, requirements of the core sector etc.

(c) to (e) Allocations of gas are generally made on the basis of its Imputed Economic Value, with priority being given to the power, fertilizer and sponge iron sectors. Allocations of gas made so far have more or less followed these priorities.

Agreement with ABN Amro Bank

1244. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation has signed an agreement with ABN Amro Bank and its subsidiary Meespierson for a loan of 80 million dollars to finance its oil import; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The loan is available for import of crude oil and petroleum products for a period of 60 days from the date of signing of the agreement (17-7-93) at floating rate of interest linked with LIBOR.

Exploration of Petroleum Products of Nagapattinam

1245. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ONGC are exploring for petroleum products off the share of Nagapattinam;

(b) whether Narimanam in Taryire District will have an LPG gas filling centre; and

(c) whether necessary survey in this regard has been undertaking by the ONGC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MRL is setting up a LPG separation plant near Narimanam.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Extension of Railway line from Kumarghat to Agartala in Tripura

1246. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to extend existing railway line from Kumarghat to Agartala in Tripura;

(b) what steps have been taken to establish railway line between Agartala, the capital of Tripura and rest of the country; and

(c) when the actual work is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The final location survey for extending the Railway line from Kumarghat to Agartala has been taken up and is expected to be completed during 1993-94. Further consideration of the project will depend on results of the survey and availability of resources in the coming years.

Unused Railway Land

1247. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 60,000 hectares of land is lying vacant and unused with the Railways;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the recent tour of the Railway Board officials under the leadership of the Minister of Railways was intended to study land management practices and particularly commercial use of Railway land in Germany, France and Sweden; and

(c) if so, what are the conclusions of the Railway Minister's mission; and whether Government has previously considered this land use issue?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the vacant railway land is required by Railways for its future developmental works.

(b) The delegation visited U.K. and France, and a part of the delegation later visited Sweden also. The delegation did not visit Germany.